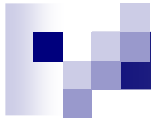


Flower Mound High School COUNSELING CENTER



The College Search & Application
Process



FMHS Counselors

- Phyllis Hamilton
 □ Lead Counselor
 - Celeste Boggs
 - Michelle Derebeew
 - April Moody
 - Lori Lewis
 - Amy Berry
 - Janet Dougherty
- A – Bot
- Bou - D
- E-Hol
- Hom-Maq
- Mar-Pic
- Pid-Sta
- Ste-Z



Top 5 Factors that Influence Admissions Decisions — NACAC Admission Trends Survey-2005

- Grades in College Prep Courses-73.9%
- Standardized Admissions Test- 59.3%
- Grades in All Courses- 53.7%
- Class Rank- 31.2%
- Essay or Writing Sample- 23.3%

% of college admission officers rating the factor to be of considerable importance in admissions process



What Are Colleges Looking For?

- Difficulty of high school courses
- Possibly SAT II Subject Test
- High school rank
- ACT or SAT scores
- Extracurricular Activities
- Community service or volunteer work
- Interview with admissions counselor
- Essay or personal statement
- Letters of recommendation
- A good match also!



How To Select The Right College For You

- Think about your interests.
- Do your homework.
- Consider geography and size.
- Visit the campus
- Don't be swayed by a school's reputation or status.
- Do not go to a school because of your friends.
- Use the college searches available on web.
- Talk to your school counselor.



Take advantage of...

- College admissions representatives on FMHS campus
- Check FMHS website for dates/times
- Sign up in the counseling office



Consider Military Academies

- Contact academy of your choice for a packet
- *Contact state congressional nominator*



Make your senior year count

- Senior year – an opportunity to strengthen skills and broaden experiences – in school and out
- Colleges pay particular attention to the senior schedule and performance

The Application Process



Apply To 5 Schools:

- **2 Reach Schools**

(Dream Schools)

- **2 Obtainable Schools**

(I am working to meet the requirements for entry)

- **1 Safety School**

(I already meet the requirements for entry)





College Admission Procedures

- Complete 4 years of high school
- Pass the TAKS
- Pass the THEA
- Update resume of all activities, awards, and jobs
- Take SAT or ACT
- Campus Visits
- Appointments with college admissions and financial offices
- Interviews
- Apply and search for scholarships
- Beat deadlines

Complete Application by Deadlines or earlier!

- Apply by Thanksgiving or Actual App. Deadline
- Recommended Online
 - Texas Common Application
 - All Texas Public Univ. some Private (www.applytexas.org)
- Housing arrangements
- Application fees
- Send Test score from testing services
- Official transcript
- Personal statement
- Essay (may be optional)
- Schedule in progress
- Resume
- Recommendation letters
- Financial aid
- Update college with changes
- Develop organizational system for tracking status

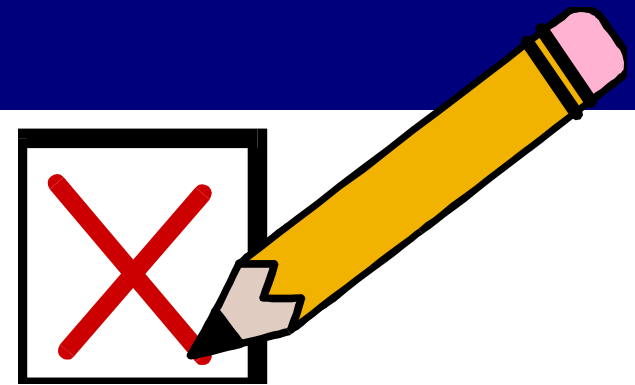




Tips for the College Application

- Read instructions carefully.
- Request recommendation letter early.
- Practice first on a COPY of the application.
- Ask someone to review the draft.
- Use Common Application—done electronically or by paper (www.applytexas.org)
 - All Texas schools use common application
 - Univ. of Dallas & SMU use common applications as well as other profile universities

WHAT ABOUT ADMISSIONS TESTING?





College Admission Testing Information

- SAT & ACT test require pre-registration.
- Registration website online
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.actstudent.org

- AP test given in May each year.
 - Student does not have to be in AP to take tests
- See AP Instructor or Counselor for dates



Plan for and take tests

ACT vs SAT

■ Cost	\$32.00	\$45.00
With Writing	\$47.00	
Score Report	1-36	3 portions, each 800 pts=2400
National Avg.	21.1	CR 503, M 518, W 497=1518
Test Content		
	English(75 items, 45 min.)	Writing Mandatory(60 min.)
	Math(60items, 60 min.)	Math (70 min.)
	Reading(40 items, 35 min.)	Reading (70 min.)
	Science(40 items, 35 min.)	No Science
	Writing(optional 1prompt 30 min.)	

How will I do on a Retest?

■ ACT

- 55% of students increase by 1 to 2 pts.
- 22% of students have no change
- 23% of students decrease



■ SAT

- 55% of students increase by 10-30 pts.
- 10% of students have no change
- 35% of students decrease



THEA




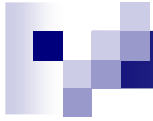
www.thea.nesinc.com

- Placement test required for Texas state schools, or check for exemption:
 - ACT-
 - Eng. & Math =19, 23 Composite
 - SAT-
 - Verbal=500+, Math=500+, 1070 Composite
 - TAKS-
 - ELA=2200 w/ 3 on Writing, Math=2200

Recommendation Letters



- Choose someone carefully
- Give person writing letter at least a 2 week notice
- Fill out senior/parent information forms (available in the counseling office) before requesting a letter
- Follow up with a 

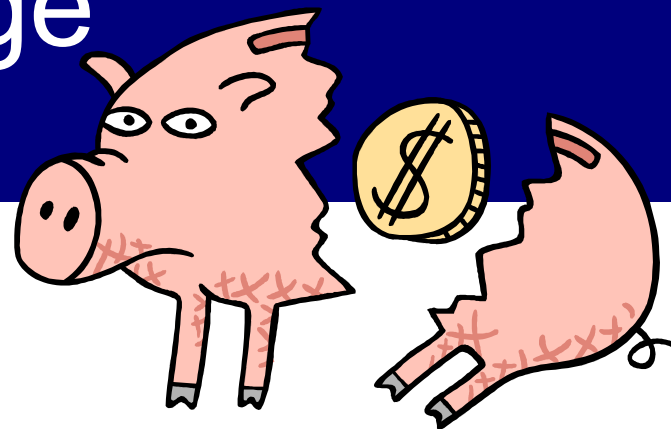


How to Order Transcripts

Go to the registrar's office (located in the counseling suite) to pick up a transcript request form or

Go to: <http://fmhs.lisd.net/counseling/transcripts.htm>

Ways to Pay for College





College Cost

www.CollegeforTexans.com

Institution	Tuition Resident	Tuition Non. Res.	Books	Room & Board	Transportation	Personal Expenses	Total
Texas Tech	7785	15720	845	7520	1310	1500	\$19,863 \$28,173
UT Austin	8842	20416	860	9980	1010	2472	\$23,164 \$34,738
Baylor	27910	27910	1398	6876	2250	2206	\$40,640
ACU	20290	20290	1200	4250	1440	1860	\$29,040
DCCCD	1230	1230	1400	7298	2664	1732	\$16,724
ACC	1624	8494	1100	9,172	1350	2200	\$15,446 \$22,316

How to Pay for College



- Fill out the FAFSA form whether you will qualify or not
 - This is used for college scholarships and even NCAA purposes.
- Talk to financial aid officer at the university
 - Check on when applications are due for scholarships. Not all admissions and scholarship applications have same deadlines.
- Check the FMHS website for additional scholarship information.

Scholarship Success

- Search for scholarships weekly
- *Apply, Apply, Apply- The more you apply for the better your chances of receiving one*
- Plan Ahead- it takes time to get transcripts and letter of recommendation
- Be organized- Keep your resume' up to date and meet deadlines
- Follow directions- Correctly Fill Out Forms!
- Proof read
- Meet deadlines
- Sign up, in the counseling office, to meet with the scholarship counselor, Stacey McNeely





Other Alternatives

- Texas Grant Program
- Early Graduation Plan by the State
- Grants
- Loans
- Scholarships
- Work/Study Programs
- Work